

## ON VARIOUS TOPICS

California's Proposed Basic Science Law,  
Proposition Number 3

## Candidates for the State Legislature

Female Employees in Physicians' Offices—Welfare  
Commission Hearing on Wage SchedulesChauncey D. Leake of U. C. Medical School Goes to  
University of Texas Medical School"Parergon," Meaning "Work by the Side of Work"—  
100-Page Brochure Portraying the Artistic  
Creations of Doctors of Medicine

**Proposition Number Three: Basic Science Initiative—Its Purpose and Scope.**—In the July issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, on pages 4 and 100, and in the August number, on page 153, comment was made concerning the proposed initiative law that, in one sense, is only an addition to the licensure statutes of the three healing-art groups recognized in California—(1) non-sectarians or regulars; (2) osteopaths, and (3) chiropractors—the attention of members of the California Medical Association being called to the heavy obligation resting on every physician to educate his lay fellow citizens on the need of such a law, and to vote YES thereon at the November 3d State election.

The justification for the law, now being proposed, rests on the simple proposition that human health and life are little less than sacred; and that it should be a fundamental obligation of every commonwealth to safeguard its citizens from incompetent or poorly-trained practitioners of the healing-art, no matter to what group they may belong.

The proposed initiative law is not retroactive; it does not imperil in any way the status of healing-art practitioners who are already licensed by the State of California, nor will it, in any manner, interfere with the right of a citizen to call into service the healing-art practitioner of his own choice.

The basic science education demanded—in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, bacteriology and pathology—can be acquired from any source whatsoever; that is, in any healing-art school or liberal arts college or university, or through private or self-instruction.

The certificate to show that an applicant for a healing-art license has passed the Basic Science Board examination need not be obtained prior to entering a healing-art school; but can be secured at any date prior to taking the healing-art examination proper, that is, even at the end of his healing-art course. Ample time, therefore, is given to acquire this basic education.

*Licensure is mandatory for many professions and vocations.*—For many occupations and professions, the State has laws to determine whether the individuals, who desire to pursue such, have had sufficient education and other training to indicate that they would be persons to whom could be safely entrusted the responsibilities involved.

If standards of education, then, are set for

plumbers, architects, and other groups, surely, as regards human health and life, the State, having a very special obligation to protect its citizens from incompetent practitioners of the healing-art, must be at liberty to establish similar standards for the practice of medicine.

Basic Science laws, now existing in some sixteen commonwealths and the District of Columbia, are a means to that very end. The objective is most worthy.

*Physicians must inform patients and friends.*—The Basic Science Initiative (Proposition Number 3) will be on the November 3d ballot and will be approved by the electorate; *provided*, the Doctors of Medicine now practicing in the State of California will educate their patients and friends on the desirability of this beneficent measure.

The above thoughts were indicated, perhaps in other words, in the comments which appeared on page 4 of the August CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and are again presented because of their great importance. Since these wartimes bring about unstable conditions, it is difficult to make forecasts, as in days of peace, especially in regard to elections. Therefore, all the more reason to be on the alert.

To repeat: Talk PROPOSITION NUMBER 3 to your patients and friends, and ask them to vote, YES, thereon.

With concerted effort, the proposed statute will be approved by the electorate. If, however, the members of the medical profession fail to actively espouse Number 3, the proposition may go down to defeat. That, indeed, would be a calamity not only for the present, but for the days to come.

**Candidates for the State Legislature.**—Elsewhere in this issue appears a tentative list of candidates for the California State Legislature, whose names will appear on the November 3d State election ballot.\* In the minds of physicians, members of the Legislature, as a class, should be differentiated from other citizens, because State Senators and Assemblymen—with the Governor—are the law makers of the Commonwealth. If, individually and collectively, they believed in and would support legislation that makes for best promotion of the public health and the maintenance of the standards of scientific medicine, physicians could almost forget the necessity of remaining interested in the proceedings of the biennial legislative sessions. However, since experience has shown that a considerable number of Legislators may be expected to hold views not conducive to best public health conservation, it follows that Doctors of Medicine must maintain a proper orientation of what is transpiring in the legislative halls at Sacramento. In last month's issue (August CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 116), attention was called to the "Final Election and the Course of Action" in regard thereto. Readers who failed to note the item

\* See page 224.